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STATEMENT

Addressed to the Meeting by Mr. Stanton.



JUN 12 1933

The Committee having now made its Report, I may be allowed the opportunity of affording some explanation, and offering a few remarks on the subject of the accounts of the Church which were entrusted to me.

I shall, for this purpose, beg the indulgence of the meeting for only a short time. The details of the whole of the transactions being in the possession of the meeting, through its Committee, it is only necessary to afford in the few remarks I have to make, such general information as may be acceptable to the Members of the Church.

The accounts having passed through my hands, I feel that it is proper I should do this—and on an occasion when so many of the Congregation are present, I would beg leave to take the opportunity of stating, that I feel myself bound, and shall be prepared on all occasions, when any individual member of the Church may require explanation with regard to his personal account as involved in the general statements handed in to the Committee, to afford to any such individual, any, and every explanation with respect to his personal account with the Church.

I mention this, that in case any gentleman who may have had transactions with the Church, should find any difficulty in adjusting his account—or as to the mode in which settlements were made—or as to balances due—

whether from want of recollection of the facts at this distant period of time—or from any other cause, I shall be prepared to give every satisfactory explanation, and from the memoranda I have kept of each individual transaction, independent of the general accounts of the Church, I may venture to say with great confidence, that it will be in my power to afford the most ample and minute detail, to every person [who] may be pleased to call upon me. The documents for this purpose, are in the hands of the Committee to whom all accounts have been rendered, and reference allowed me to these, I shall be ready on all occasions to meet the pledge I now make.

With respect to the affairs of the Church generally—its building, and subsequent occupation to the period of the deplorable calamity which has occurred, I must beg the indulgence of the meeting, in offering a few brief remarks—the details of all these matters, as I have already observed, are before the meeting, and need not be alluded to.

Divine Service was performed in the Church for the first time on the 13th October, 1833. Before the close of that year, sales of Pews were made, and as far as my attention could do it, settlements were effected with individuals. The contractors were paid up in full, and not long after the whole of the Church ground was enclosed with a substantial fence and paid for.

During the year 1834, and to June 1835, I continued to devote part of my time and attention, to the closing as far as possible the affairs of the Church:—having

done as much as I thought was in my power to accomplish, towards this desirable object, with the half year ending 30th June, 1835, I labored to bring matters to a close as near as could be—and then made up all the accounts to that period, connected with the building—the sale of Pews—debts outstanding—and as regarded the ordinary affairs of the Church, as connected with the Church Warden's account, some pains were taken to collect the dues, and to be prepared to submit a general statement of the whole, to a meeting to be called for the purpose. A printed Circular was accordingly sent to each Pew-holder, and circulated very generally among the members of the Congregation, convening a meeting on the 14th July, 1835, and by that day all the accounts to the half year ending 30th June, 1835, were made up and closed, and ready to be submitted to the meeting.

It certainly must be matter for regret, that, at that meeting so very few persons attended, and that nothing was done, when the comparatively healthy state of the Church funds generally, (the correctness of which can at this day be easily ascertained by reference to the detailed accounts, and by examination of the Bank books) would have them satisfied, and will, I think, now satisfy all persons concerned—that with a then settlement of accounts—a relief of hands at the laboring oar, and the renewed exertions of fresh ones, the state of our affairs was such as to preclude all apprehension of difficulty on the score of money matters:—and it may also be regretted, that at the subsequent Easter, the ordinary business meeting, after the usual notice given, when it was hoped and expected that these matters would be disposed of, that on the part of those interested in the

affairs of the Church, convenience may not have permitted the attendance of a larger number than that which considered it only necessary to continue the duties and responsibilities in the same hands, and from which no relief has since been afforded.

The following statement shews the result on closing the accounts to the period stated.

*General Statement—Affairs of the Church, to
30th June, 1835.*

Balance due to the Bank	-	-	£2713	6	1
Due to the Church by Sundry Persons, on account of Pews purchased			996	16	11
Balance due on the Church	-	-	£1719	9	2

Value of Pews unsold at the upset prices £2540 0 0

(Some of which are leased to individuals.)

At the same period (30th June 1835) the

Pew Rents and Leases had been collected, as far as possible. The Church-

Warden's account was closed to that

date, and the balance to the Credit of

the Church, lodged in the Bank was 217 18 11

This was a more prosperous period than what now presents itself. The Bank debt with accumulating interest has considerably increased. Of other matters which are in arrear, I may have to take some blame to myself, but I am certain it will not be considered wilful or as not being shared by others, the same leisure may not have been afforded, though the exertions were not altogether relaxed. The comfort and convenience of the Church was not neglected—renewed attempts to

collect its dues were made, and up to the period of our common calamity, private means were not withheld for the decent support of the Public Worship in that temple whose loss none can more deeply deplore than myself.

In offering these few observations, let it not be supposed that I despond, even in the present state of our affairs. The Report of your Committee is sufficient to remove any such feeling, and even if it were otherwise, we all would still have but one duty to perform—to replace the temple of our God, that ourselves and families, our neighbors and friends may again be permitted to assemble within its sacred walls, again to offer up our united voices in prayer and thanksgiving to the Giver of all good.